The Global Teacher

Issue 8, Autumn 2007

"Do you wish to **shape** the future, or do you want to **survive** it?"

- Roméo D'Allaire

At the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) Social Justice Conference in Ottawa in May 2007, keynote speaker Roméo D'Allaire reminded us that we will be known as the generation to be held accountable for our actions. "We're in a 'consciousness-awakening' period and as a result we're being challenged ethically, socially and responsibly."

So what exactly does this mean in terms of environmental learning and sustainability?

Does it mean that we all do our part, no matter how small, to ensure that we're minimizing our consumption? Does it mean we start to downscale in terms of autos, homes, clothing, and toys? Does it mean we take a moment to think of how our imminent action will impact our community, today and tomorrow? Does it mean we should do more than recycling and look at composting, alternative transportation, organic growing? Does it mean that we question why we have so much and others have so little? Does it mean that we'll actually start to value every living thing and realize we don't have sole ownership of this planet? Does it really mean all of that?

It certainly does, and much more. So how do we change? How do we shift a mindset that hasn't paid much attention to the planet? We start young is what we do.

Mr. D'Allaire, in relationship to his background, equates good leadership with nurturing to ensure maximum results. As teachers, we are in a position of leadership to nurture a generation of environmental stewards who will have the understanding, the self-assurance and the commitment to ensure we all continue to live a good quality of life on this planet. CTF is the host organization for Green Street, an environmental learning and sustainability program offering teachers the opportunity to actively engage students in excellent environmental education. Visit Green Street **www.green-street.ca** to see what it can offer your classroom!!

THIS ISSUE OF THE *GLOBAL TEACHER* IS PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER, WHICH HELPED THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- **saved over 4 mature trees**
- **reduced solid waste by 125 kg**
- **reduced quantity of water used by 11,500 litres**
- **reduced air emissions by 260 kg**
- **reduced natural gas consumption by 17 m^3 through the use of biogas**

DID YOU KNOW?

- ... over 70% of the world's ... is owned or operated ...
- ... for every 500 kg of paper ... we save 26,000 litres of water
- ... each Canadian produces 1.1 kg of waste each day (roughly our body weight in garbage every single month)
- ... about one billion gallons of water are used every day on Earth
- "Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."
  – Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
- A "life cycle assessment" refers to a method that assesses a product's full environmental costs, from raw material to final disposal
- ... an idling engine releases twice as many exhaust fumes than a vehicle in motion
- ... nearly 2 billion people around the world depend on fish as their primary source of protein

Excellent environmental **education** programs...

- Are credible, reputable, and based on solid facts, traditional knowledge or science.
- Have their values, biases, and assumptions made explicit.
- Involve a cycle of continual improvement that includes the processes of design, delivery, evaluation, and redesign.
- Are grounded in a real-world context that is specific to age, curriculum, and place.
- Encourage a personal affinity with the earth through practical experiences out-of-doors and through the practice of an ethic of care.
- Like the environment itself, programs transcend curricular boundaries, striving to integrate traditional subject areas and disciplines.
- Provide creative learning experiences that are hands-on and learner-centered, where students teach each other and educators are mentors and facilitators.
- Examine environmental problems and issues in a comprehensive manner that includes social, economic, political, moral, and ethical dimensions and the interdependence between these.
- Motivate and empower students through the provision of action skills and strategies for responsible citizenship.
- Promote an understanding of the past, a sense of the present, and a positive vision for the future.

All programs offered through **www.green-street.ca** are subject to the following criteria, which consist of the Green Street Benchmarks of excellent environmental education programs:

- Themes of interest must focus on the environment, the economy and society
- Program design and content will include knowledge components, skills and values to promote best student learning
- Pedagogical methods will include critical thinking, active learning, self-expression and authenticity to attain high levels of student engagement
- Sustainability – for teachers, for students, for communities

NEW to Green Street • **this year**

★ GreenLearning eCard

GreenLearning eCard (www.greenlearning.ca) is a student-created electronic greeting card on energy sources that includes a graphic and a message. Students use eCards to explore answers to questions on our current and future energy use, express their opinions, design their own image and send them to family, friends and leaders to help shape our energy future.

★ EcoKids Brings the Environment into your ESL classroom

Are you looking for new ways to increase English proficiency and environmental awareness in your classroom? Check out Earth Day Canada's English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) lesson plans, now available online at ecokids.ca! The lesson plans, formally evaluated by ESL professionals, are learner-centered, readily applicable and linked to Ontario's K-6 curriculum.

* Colour Our World: Agents of Change

Agents of Change introduces students to sustainable planning issues such as watershed management, Smart Growth concepts, sustainable transportation, local food security, and greenways. This interactive program offered by the Better Environmentally Sound Transportation group is offered in B.C.

* Water, Water Everywhere

On the heels of the successful Operation Water Drop are two new programs – Operation Water Pollution and Operation Water Health, as well as other classroom programs and activities, with some translated into Cree. The Safe Drinking Water Foundation offers all of their programs across the country.

* Destination Conservation Saskatchewan (DCS)

DCS is a practical, student-driven, activity-based program that brings environmental education alive in our schools. The program helps students do real work for their school to identify conservation opportunities. It's a collaborative program that sees students work with teachers, principals, custodians and parents.

* WildEd

WildEd programs introduce students to the diversity of landscapes and the species that have adapted specially to inhabit wilderness areas. Through activities, games and discussion, students learn how they are linked to wildlife and wild areas through topics such as: lifestyle choices, nature's services, consumption and resource extraction and their effects on ecosystems.

* Fallsbrook Centre – Sustainable Schools Challenge

A New Brunswick bilingual program facilitates the design and implementation of a school-wide environmental and global justice audit that explores energy, food and water consumption in addition to the biodiversity of the schoolgrounds. The Climate Change Bus and One World Puppet Show provide a participatory exploration of renewable energy technologies and global interdependence, especially in the face of climate change.

* Eco-Buddies – Mentoring at its Best

A new program for the Sierra Club of Canada-Atlantic Chapter, Eco-buddies involves a high school leadership program focused on the topic of the Ecological Footprint. It's a program designed to empower Grade 10 high school youth to be further engaged in the environment and their communities by acting as mentors or "Eco-buddies" for elementary Grade 6 students.

Endangered Species Teaching Kit, offered by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Enliven your lessons or arm yourself with some great activities, information and resources to teach social studies and science classes. Another program offered by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is the SOS: Save our Species! In this fun and educational program (indoors or out), students (and teachers) will learn about the plight of Canada's species at risk. From the warm and furry, to the cold and slimy, students will get up close and personal with a few of Alberta's endangered species.

Conservation Corps Newfoundland & Labrador
Through an interactive presentation and discussion, students can be provided with an overview of the science of climate change, predictions of local impacts, and global issues. Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador will show how links are made between individual action and global effects and students will be encouraged to take action to decrease their environmental impacts.

Re-energy.ca, offered by The Pembina Institute – Explore wind energy, water energy, solar energy, biomass energy and more. Build working models from easy-to-follow construction plans, including a wind turbine, biogas generator, solar car and more. Re-energy.ca provides background information, exciting hands-on learning activities, lesson plans, resources and links to renewable energy and sustainable energy information. Build the models and then teach others about the current uses of renewable energy and their importance in reducing our environmental impact.

Adopt-A-Site program, offered by the Citizens' Environmental Watch – This program encourages students and teachers to become 'citizen scientists' and take an active role in understanding and protecting their local environment. Students work with staff and volunteers to monitor air or surface water quality in their community, and they subsequently learn to take action and communicate their results.

"The presenters were **great**! They established immediate rapport with the class, were **enthusiastic**, full of **energy**, yet kept wonderful control!"

– K-2 teacher

The Acadian and Boreal Forest program, offered by Sierra Club of Canada (Atlantic Chapter) – Through a two-part in-class hands-on program, students gain a deeper understanding of this special ecosystem and the ways in which humans interact with the environment. Perhaps you'd like to explore Atlantic Canada's Coasts and Ocean Program, which introduces the diversity of species that live along our coasts and addresses the issues of our impact on this particular ecosystem.

Wetland Centres of Excellence programs, offered by Ducks Unlimited –Through in-class resource kits and learning materials on wetlands in Canada, or through field trips to local wetlands, Ducks Unlimited engages teachers and students in environmental learning through hands-on approaches and action-oriented wetland conservation initiatives.

"Very **worthwhile** program for young students. This type of **education** is the **key** to saving our wetland areas."

– Middle school teacher

Quagmire, offered by Clean Nova Scotia – This role-playing game simulates a real situation: whether or not to destroy a salt marsh to build a highway, or protect the marsh from development. Participating in a debate, students take on the roles of various stakeholders to discuss the fate of a saltwater marsh located in the Maritimes. A highly interactive game that stimulates students' participation and critical-thinking.

The Yellow Fish Road™ program, offered by Trout Unlimited Canada – A hands-on environmental project for youth to help decrease water pollution in their community. This reminds people that everything entering the storm drain system ends up in the local water body.

Learning Grounds Program, offered by Evergreen – This program supports schools across Canada by helping students and teachers transform their barren school grounds into natural outdoor classrooms. You will learn how to re-design your school grounds and within a year, with lots of volunteer help, it will be looking a lot greener.

The Otesha Project – Perhaps you prefer live theatre? The Otesha Project's theatre troupe will demonstrate the global impacts of our everyday actions, whether it's through the clothes, coffee and chocolate we buy, or the way we transport ourselves; secondary level students will love it.

"I learned how **important** it is to buy local products because it takes so many **steps** to not get it locally."

– Grade 6 student

Climate Change Education Program, offered by Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter – The Climate Change Education Program is centered on the goal of having youth take action towards climate change. This innovative three-prong approach uses in-class presentations, student action projects and (optional) teacher training workshops to teach about the causes, effects and solutions surrounding climate change, including personal and family actions.

TEACHERS' BLOG

If you're interested in classroom and whole-school tools on going green, or looking for educational programs and resources, drop by the Green Street blog to visit and chat.

http://blog.greenstreet.ca

Join the Global Campaign for **Education**!

Global Action Week provides a common momentum for action in support of the ongoing worldwide Global Campaign for Education (GCE). The Campaign promotes education as a basic human right and mobilizes public pressure on governments and the international community to provide access to free, compulsory public education for all children. The Campaign is working! Since 2000, the number of children out of school has dropped from 100 million to an estimated 77 million, and the gender gap is slowly closing.

- CTF is active within the Canadian Global Campaign for Education network of over 100 Canadian organizations that support Millennium Development Goals and Education for All targets through research and Global Action Week activities. (www.campaignforeducationcanada.org)

The theme of Global Action Week 2007 was "Everyone has a Right to an Education", and over 3,000 Canadians joined up to enhance school curriculum and run special activities. Photos of student "chains" and paper chains made their way to Germany for the G8 meeting where they were displayed with chains from around the world, representing a common call to respect education rights.

Quality Education to End Exclusion!

Global Action Week 2008 (April 21-27) will highlight issues of quality and exclusion. Actions will include bringing politicians "back to school", under the slogan of "It's time to learn".

- CTF will distribute the next spring issue of the *Global Teacher* newsletters with links to GCE activities, along with lesson plans and backgrounders on the issues that keep children out of school.
- CTF will host the fifth annual Breakfast with Parliamentarians on Parliament Hill on April 29, when MPs and Senators join CTF Board Members, along with CIDA and CGCE representatives, to celebrate Global Action Week and explore education issues for mutual follow-up.

Visit the Global Campaign for Education Web site for the latest on Canadian and international activities and stay tuned to the CTF Web site for upcoming information about Global Action Week 2008, and to access classroom lessons and other resources. You'll find the lessons are applicable to your classroom work all year round.

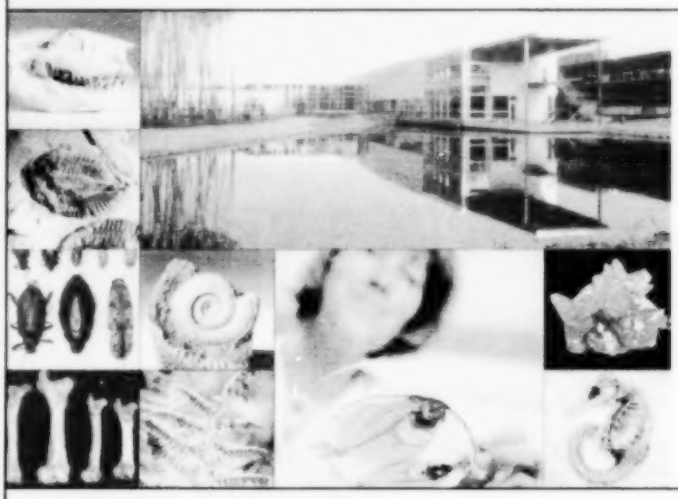
www.campaignforeducation.ca
www.ctf-fce.ca

Engaging in our **Communities** as Global Citizens

The Canadian Teachers' Federation is launching a national bilingual teacher training workshop promoting the four values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity to increase the engagement of students within their schools and communities. Look for information on this in November 2007 on the CTF Web site at **www.ctf-fce.ca**

Engaging in Bruntdland Values

Other resources of interest for teachers...



Canadian Museum of Nature

Go behind the scenes at the Canadian Museum of Nature and enter the world of real science without leaving your school!

Meet the Museum's scientists in their research labs or visit the national collections, and explore topics such as biodiversity, climate change, ecosystems, DNA, fossils, minerals, and more.

For more information or to book a programme, call **613-566-4701** or visit **www.nature.ca**

NATURE

Canada

Green Teacher

Written by teachers, for teachers, and read by over 10,000 North American educators

Great ideas and practical strategies for teaching about the environment.

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And books for "green" educators!

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